

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/702,919

Examiner

Paul Nguyen-Ba

Applicant(s)

ALBRIGHT ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment filed on July 7, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15 and 19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 October 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record (Benade et al. – U.S. Patent No. 5,621,864) discloses generating a variable data file to be used to generate custom printed articles (see Abstract and Figures), comprising the steps of: reading a template including a plurality of tokens (see Summary; see col. 6, at line 34 through col. 10, at line 24; col. 15, lines 60+ → compare plurality of tokens with “indicia”); generating a data structure including a plurality of printed article ID's (see Summary; col. 5, lines 15-53; col. 6, lines 35-52; col. 13, lines 41-44; col. 16, lines 6-20 → database or data file used to drive the printer to produce indicia correspondence; see also Figure 13); identifying a record in a database using a first printed article ID (see Summary; col. 8, lines 1-5; col. 12, lines 30-34; col. 19, lines 43+ → matched to a database input); and extracting data from a field of the record which is specified by a first token in the plurality of tokens (see Summary; col. 8, lines 12-18, 36-56; col. 12, lines 26-30; col. 19, lines 43+ → indicia generator responds to the selection of data input and generates the series of indicia specified), and outputting the data to the variable data file (see Summary; col. 5, lines 15-53; col. 8, lines 47-67 to col. 9, lines 1-10; col.13, lines 44-63).

However, the prior art of the record fails explicitly teach, suggest, or render obvious generating a custom printed article print file in which a master file in a page description language is generated that includes all non variable content of the custom printed article and place markers that indicate positions at which document specific content is to be inserted, a data definition file

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is generated that specifies format of the document specific content that is to be inserted, a template is read that includes at least one token indicating a field in a database, a record in the database is identified using a printed article ID, data is extracted from the field of the record which is specified by the one token, the data is output to a variable data file, the data definition file is used in converting the variable data file to a PDL variable file in the page description language, the master file is processed so as to generate the non variable content in rasterized form, the PDL variable tile is processed so as to generate the document specific content in rasterized form, and the document specific content in rasterized form is merged with the non variable content in rasterized form so as to produce the custom printed article print file.

Conclusion

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Nguyen-Ba whose telephone number is (571) 272-4094. The examiner can normally be reached from 10:30 am - 7:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on (571) 272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PNB


JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER